

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): System for drying objects, comprising:

[[a)] a drying cubicle including at least one section in which the objects are exposed to hot air;

[[b)] a heating device which heats the hot air introduced into the drying cubicle,

wherein characterised in that

[[e)] the heating device includes at least one high temperature fuel cell [(10)] the process waste air from which can be fed to the drying cubicle [(1)] as hot air;

[[d)] there is provided a control system which

[[da)] so operates the high temperature fuel cell [(10)] regardless of the electrical energy generated thereby that the thermal energy generated thereby meets the requirement in the drying cubicle [(1)]; and,

[[db)] supplies whatever quantity of electrical energy is generated by the high temperature fuel cell [(10)] to other electrical consumers.

2. (currently amended): System according to claim 1, wherein characterised in that the control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell [(10)]

primarily for electrical consumers (6, 12, 15) belonging to the system itself and secondarily for electrical consumers located outside the system.

3. (currently amended): System according to claim 2, ~~wherein~~characterised in that the control system utilises the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell [(10)] within the system itself primarily for the electrical consumers [(6)] used for heat generation, for example, infrared radiators, and secondarily for other electrical consumers, for example, electrical drives.
4. (currently amended): System according to claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the control system supplies the surplus electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell [(10)] not consumed in the system itself primarily to an energy accumulator and secondarily to the general electrical mains supply.
5. (currently amended): System according to claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ there is provided a regenerative post-combustion device [(11)] to which air extracted from the drying chamber [(1)] and containing hydrocarbon is fed for purification.
6. (currently amended): ~~System~~Method according to claim 5, ~~wherein~~characterised in that a heat exchanger [(14)] is provided in which a thermal exchange takes place between hot air drawn from the regenerative post-combustion device [(11)] and air drawn from the ambient atmosphere and fed to the drying cubicle [(1)].
7. (currently amended): Method for drying objects, wherein air is heated and the objects are subjected to the influence of the heated air, the method comprising:

~~characterised in that:~~

[(a)] the process waste air from a high temperature fuel cell [(10)] is used as hot air;

[[b]] the high temperature fuel cell [[(10)]] is operated according to the requirement for thermal energy of the drying process regardless of the electrical energy generated by said high temperature fuel cell [[(10)]]; and,

[[e]] the electrical energy generated by the high temperature fuel cell [[(10)]] is fed in whatever quantity is obtained to electrical consumers.

8. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell [[(10)]] is utilised primary for electrical consumers ~~(6, 12, 15)~~ belonging to the system itself and secondarily for electrical consumers located outside the system.
9. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein~~or 8, characterised in that~~ the electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell [[(10)]] is utilised within the system itself primarily for the electrical consumers [[(6)]] used for heat generation, for example, infrared radiators, and secondarily for other electrical consumers, for example, electrical drives.
10. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein~~any one of claims 7 to 9, characterised in that~~ the surplus electrical energy of the high temperature fuel cell [[(10)]] not consumed in the system itself is supplied primary to an energy accumulator and secondarily to the general electrical mains supply.
11. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein~~any one of claims 7 to 10, characterised in that~~ the air produced during drying and containing hydrocarbon is post-combusted regeneratively.
12. (currently amended): Method according to claim 11, wherein~~characterised in that~~ the air heated by post-combustion is used for heating air which is drawn from the ambient atmosphere and fed to the drying process.

13. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein any one of claims 7 to 12,
~~characterised in that~~ upon attainment of the operating temperature of the fuel cell
[[~~(10)~~]] the fuel gas is heated at least partially by electrical energy supplied from the
fuel cell [[~~(10)~~]] itself.
14. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein any one of claims 7 to 13,
~~characterised in that~~ the process waste air from the high temperature fuel cell [[~~(10)~~]]
forms an inert atmosphere in the drying cubicle [[~~(1)~~]].